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SPANISH PAPER INTERVIEWS ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA

LD081121Y Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 2 Feb 78 p 13 LD

[Pedro S. Queirolo report on interview in Buenos Aires with Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera, commander in chief of Argentina's naval forces and member of the military junta: "We Want To Establish a Representative and Federal Republic Which Will Insure a Just, Modern and Stable Democratic Coexistence"--date not given; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 February--"The national cohesion achieved through the firmness of the military junta--the nation's supreme body, composed of the three armed forces commanders in chief--in rejecting as invalid the court ruling on the Beagle Channel has shown us to be a united people. It confirms our belief that the Argentine people have become aware of the challenge facing us of achieving greatness, and that we have entered a period of creative excitement."

This was said by Admiral Emilio Eduardo Massera, commander in chief of naval forces and one of the three members of the military junta, in an exclusive interview with LA VANGUARDIA.

At another juncture, referring to the armed forces' view of sovereignty over the Beagle Channel and the conflict with Britain over the Falkland Islands, he said:

The Argentine Chancellery, following precise instructions from the military junta, based on a detailed and well-documented study, has rejected Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's ruling as invalid. Grave errors of procedure and substance invalidate the ruling. As for the Falkland Islands, the admiral stated emphatically that they are Argentinian. The conflict with Britain is following the path of negotiations.

There Will Be No Political Changes

In less than 2 months it will be the second anniversary of the military coup in Argentina which overthrew Isabelita Martinez de Peron's regime and began the so-called process of national reorganization. I asked Admiral Massera what successes have been achieved and whether they were in line with the armed forces' aims, and he replied:

The objectives of the process of national reorganization, begun in March 1976 under the joint responsibility of the three branches o the armed forces, were clearly defined in the fundamental documents. These objectives must be situated in time and space according to various areas of specific action. In order to assess the arduous task we had to tackle, it is important to remember that in March 1976 Argentina was suffering from a grave structural crisis which was carrying it inexorably to its own destruction.

The criminal action of terrorism, which had stained Argentina with blood since 1970, had contributed to this. Terrorism has been eliminated, apart from isolated crazy episodes, and has essentially become a painful memory in the history of delinquency. Finally, I will tell you that everything that has been done so far is aimed at one of the principal objectives of the process of national reorganization: to establish a representative and federal republic which will insure a just, modern and stable democratic coexistence.

Thus, since this process of national reorganization is apparently on the right road, we asked the admiral if one can expect changes soon in political orientation and, if so, in which direction.

Not at all, he replied. The political directives established in March 1976 are being adhered to according to plan. You made a temporal allusion with regard to the proximity of changes. We repeat that the process of national organization has no time limits--only objectives.

Concern for Image Abroad

Since magnanimity is an attribute of the wealthy, since subversion has been eliminated, and since the country has entered a period of order and personal responsibility, does the nation's government intend to start a process which will permit all those being held to be brought to trial?

"The present government," the navy chief of staff replied, "has already announced the establishment of a committee composed of representatives of the armed forces who have studied the cases of the detainees one by one."

In the same way the names are regularly announced of those being held by the national executive body, of those released and of foreigners who must leave the country. Of course, there are unresolved legal cases which must, in accordance with the autonomy of the judicial authorities, be dealt with by judges within the judicial framework of current procedure.

Admiral Massera expressed concern with the deterioration in Argentina's image abroad. "How could we fail to be concerned by the distorted image of Argentina prevalent abroad?" he said. When asked whether the hosting of the World Cup soccer finals, which will attract the attention of the entire world to Argentina, will not be a unique opportunity for initiating a spectacular initiative to change his country's image abroad, he answered:

"Nobody is unaware of the importance of the 1978 soccer World Cup, insofar as it is an opportunity for millions of people, including those receiving information through television the radio or the press, to become acquainted with everyday truth in Argentina. Argentina's image abroad will be projected without prejudiced distortions on the basis of the truth. Out of a sense of responsibility and republican sobriety, the military junta never resorts to spectacular methods."

Beagle Channel

Recently, with the vigorous rejection of Britain's ruling on the Beagle Channel and General Videla's talks with General Pinochet, a new line has become apparent in Argentine foreign policy, in contrast to the excessively conciliatory kind of diplomacy of former regimes. The papers have spoken of a "military diplomacy" as opposed to the conventional kind.

We asked Admiral Massera what criteria govern Argentina's diplomatic policy at present.

"Argentina has a clear line in this respect, based on unshakeable principles which have earned us unquestionable prestige.

"As we have already said, these principles are: submission to the rules of international law, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states, fulfillment of agreements concluded, strengthening of cooperation and international solidarity, maintenance of relations with all countries in the world and agreement with all who retrain respect for human dignity.

"On the foreign policy horizon we have two priorities: First, to establish integrated Latin American relations, respectful of different sovereignties. Second--as a logical consequence of this first step--to lay the foundations for the creation of a Latin American community which will provide mutual enrichment and give us greater influence at the world level. We must make it clear that the basis of the entire policy is our firm policy of preserving our sea, island and territorial sovereignty."

Links With Spain

Admiral Massera passed through Madrid at the end of last year and was received by King Juan Carlos. There was much speculation about the substance of this visit. We asked the admiral what he can disclose to us on this matter and whether he renewed the existing invitation to the king to visit Argentina.

"The fundamental nature of the visit," he replied, "was to strengthen the links between Argentina and the mother country. The affection which the king feels for our country is well known, and I had proof of it once more during our interview. We also discussed the present situation in Argentina, and I explained to him what intentions and objectives the armed forces have in assuming political power of the state. As for the king's visit, it is obvious that he has a permanent invitation because, in any event, when he comes he will be in his own home, as all Spaniards are in Argentina."

AFP OFFICE QUESTIONED IN CASE OF MISSING NUNS

PY081955Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1753 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb--The correspondents of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Argentina testified today, Wednesday, before a federal trial judge in connection with the disappearance of two French nuns in December. The hearing was opened at the request of military authorities to establish under what circumstances three clandestine documents arrived at the AFP office in Buenos Aires. The documents are an unauthenticated communique signed "Montonero movement," a handwritten letter from Sister Alice Domon, apparently dictated by her kidnapers, and a photograph of the two nuns.

The director of the AFP office and his deputy were heard by the judge, who particularly wanted to know how they had used the communique and how it was transmitted to AFP headquarters.

JUNTA DISCUSSES SOUTHERN BORDER AT LENGTH

PY081411Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Communique released at the conclusion of a military junta meeting on 7 February in Buenos Aires]

[Text] The military junta met on 7 February at 1700 at the Libertador building, army headquarters. During the first part of the meeting, in which the foreign minister and the secretaries of the three forces participated, the border problems in the Beagle Channel area were studied. Afterward, the military junta studied matters linked with the joint activities of the forces and the interforce cooperation programs for 1978. This part of the meeting was attended by the air force, navy and army chiefs of staff and the joint chief of staff. The meeting closed at 2100.

BRIEFS

ARMY INTELLIGENCE DEPUTY CHIEF--Brig Gen Alberto A. Valin today assumed his duties as army intelligence deputy chief under the army chief of staff. He replaces Gen Carlos A. Martinez, who will head the government's Intelligence Secretariat. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2028 GMT 2 Feb 78 PY]

NAVY UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL--Buenos Aires, 3 Feb--Rear Adm Rodolfo C. Luccheta was sworn in today as navy under secretary general at a ceremony presided over by Navy Secretary General Eduardo R. Fracassi. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0244 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY]

NEW MARINE INFANTRY COMMANDER--Rear Adm Oscar Francisco Abriata will assume duties as marine infantry commander on Wednesday at the Puerto Belgrano Naval Base. Admiral Abriata replaces Rear Adm Roberto Wulff de la Fuente. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2130 GMT 6 Feb 78 PY]

PLANNING OFFICIAL RESIGNS--Buenos Aires, 7 Feb--Planning Minister Carlos Enrique Laidlaw has accepted the resignation submitted by Jose Andres, under secretary of the Planning Ministry. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1840 GMT 7 Feb 78 PY]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR--Defense Minister Maj Gen Jose Maria Klix today swore in Col (Eduardo Osvaldo Garay) as the new director general of the Research and Development Department. He is replacing Capt Francisco Suarez Battan. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 2 Feb 78 PY]

RELAY STATIONS--San Juan, 26 Jan--Construction of the buildings for microwave relay stations between San Juan and the national network is finished. The National Telecommunications Company will soon begin the technical installations. The system will have a 112-meter-high antenna and will use three independent systems: One will serve to relay television and the other two for telex, telephone and telegraph. The system designed for television will be operating before the World Soccer Cup takes place. The other two will begin operating before the end of the year to link San Juan with Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Mendoza. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1155 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY]

NEW TELEVISION STATION--Several towns in Santa Fe Province will benefit from two additional relay stations for a Rosario television station. The Federal Broadcasting Commission has also authorized a new television station which will operate from Rio Cuarto, Cordoba Province. [Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY]

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE--The National Telecommunications Company [ENTEL] plans to implement a new automatic station-to-station service for international telephone calls. The system should begin operation during the next few months and will be available to those users who have a high volume of international calls. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 7 Feb 78 PY]

LAPA INAUGURATES SERVICES--The Argentine Private Air Lines (LAPA) yesterday inaugurated its commercial services, flying with Metro II airplanes. Buenos Aires Governor Saint Jean attended the ceremony. [Buenos Aires LA NACION 22 Jan 78 p 6 PY]

SPOKESMAN DENIES GOVERNMENT VIOLATES AMNESTY

PY090125Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2116 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 8 Feb--The Bolivian Government today reiterated its plea to the country's citizenry to firmly denounce violations of the general political amnesty ordered on 20 January. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry, consulted today, said that recent reports of alleged discrimination in implementation of this amnesty are unfounded, since no details have been given.

The spokesman, who is close to Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo, recalled recent statements made by the minister, who said there are no restrictions of any kind in the observance of government orders concerning the amnesty.

Several leftist political parties last week protested the alleged persecution of political and union leaders, and the probably resistance of consulates and embassies abroad to granting visas to those exiled politicians who decided to return to the country.

The Interior Ministry asked these politicans and the citizenry to back up any denouncement so it could investigate and then punish those responsible.

Meanwhile, political sources today confirmed that the return of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, principle leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], is expected around 15 February. Siles Zuazo is considered the probable candidate of a leftist front in the presidential elections scheduled for 9 July.

VILLALPANDO STRESSES APOLITICAL ROLE OF MILITARY

PY082002Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Feb 78 p 4 PY

[Excerpts] In a vehement tone of voice, Army Commander Gen Alfonso Villalpando told the press yesterday that the armed forces "definitely do not want to intervene in problems of a political nature, or even less to participate in activities of a subversive nature."

The high-ranking military authority was in Oruro to attend the ceremony at which Gen Angel Salmon took office as commander of I Corps. The ceremony was held on the parade ground of Camacho's 1st Artillery Regiment.

The army commander stated: "Since Bolivia has a political process underway, the armed forces are conscious of the need to maintain peace, tranquillity and order, and they are determined to guarantee the democratization process launched by the nation's president. This is a demonstration that the armed forces, and particularly the army, have achieved responsible maturity through their experience in government over the last 6 years and that they have consolidated their unity to a greater degree."

General Villalpando added: "I must emphasize that this unity is stronger now. Some retired militarymen have tried to undermine this unity, only to be repudiated by the men on active service. This is further proof of the maturity attained by the armed forces, which definitely do not want to intervene in problems of a political nature, or even less to participate in activities of a subversive nature. This way the armed forces are in the position to defend peace and order. We know that the armed forces must do nothing but fulfill their own mission during the political struggle over the next few months."

General Villalpando then stated: "Allow me to take this occasion to call on the political parties to engage in the struggle with due respect for the established laws. We do not want the country, public opinion or the people to be disturbed by the actions of some parties which violate the rules laid down for this process. The armed forces are ready to make them understand that they must behave during this struggle."

GENERAL DISAVOWS MILITARY INTEREST IN POLITICS

PY081740Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 PY

[Text] Victor Gonzalez Fuentes, chief of the general staff, has said: "The armed forces keep absolutely aloof from party politics and do not support any candidacy, in order to guarantee the clean and normal development of the election process."

The high-ranking officer, who is chief of staff of the armed forces command, has confirmed the statements made a few days ago by Gen Alfonso Villalpando Armaza, the army commander, at a ceremony in Oruro that no member of the institution on active duty will be able to appear as a candidate at the elections. Gen Victor Gonzales said that this is in fact already established and regulated in the constitution and the armed forces organization law.

When asked by newsmen about the support Gen Juan Pereda Asbun had received from the army and navy when he was proclaimed as presidential candidate, he asserted that it had been "simple expressions of sympathy and camaraderie which did not mean any political support; they had no other significance."

Regarding the elections, he repeated that the armed forces do not support any candidacy; on the contrary, they keep "absolutely aloof" from politics, precisely to guarantee the development of the elections.

He also said that he had no knowledge that officers of II Corps had threatened to kill Gen Remberto Iriarte Paz (ret) in Santa Cruz. He also laconically confirmed that the high military command had imposed disciplinary punishment against the members of the "Topater" civil military group for having broken military regulations. He did not specify the nature of the punishments.

PRESIDENT APPROVES OPERATIVE PLAN FOR 1978

PY081627Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The implementation of the 1978 operative plan was authorized by presidential decree yesterday. The plan will demand an investment of 21 billion Bolivian pesos, both in the public and private sector.

The planning and coordination minister gave the information, adding that the operative plan is going into its third year and that the 1978 plan is one of the most important, because it will give priority to social and rural development programs.

Gen Juan Lechin Suarez said that a total of $2.5 billion has been invested since the onset of the operative plan 3 years ago.

The 1978 plan, printed in 11 volumes, sets guidelines for achieving the goals of the national development.

MIR CRITICIZES RAPID GROWTH OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY090207Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 Feb 78

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has released a document to the press in which it states that Bolivia, through 1977, had a foreign indebtedness of $2.35 billion. With the document, signed by (Jaime Bastanora) and Oscar Franco, the MIR becomes the first political party to criticize and analyze the Bolivian foreign debt by making a comparison, in figures, of the amount of foreign resources which Bolivia had from 1969 until the end of 1977.

The statement points out that from a contracted foreign debt of $558 million in 1969, we reached $1.21 billion in 1974 and $2.35 billion in 1977. The analysis states that these figures clearly demonstrate the high rate of foreign indebtedness of the country in those years.

The document is 13 pages long and includes charts which show the Bolivian economic situation in the last 6 years of President Banzer's government. The MIR compares the country's foreign debt with the Bolivian population. It states that in 1969, every Bolivian owed $137, in 1974 every Bolivian's debt increased to $266, and at the end of 1977 every Bolivian owed, without knowing it, $483. It adds that of this contracted foreign debt, the amounts paid for the same years were $58 million, $130 million and $480 million.

In its conclusions the MIR, a political party founded in 1970, mostly by young university student leaders, states that the fast process of foreign indebtedness during these 6 years is the logical result of the economic policies practiced by the military government. It points out that this is the result of the demands imposed by the distorted and anarchic growth of the economy at the expense of the impoverishment of the great majority of the Bolivian people, the lack of employment of the labor force and the looting of its non-renewable natural resources.

The MIR document also recalls that when the country was going through a situation when international prices [of minerals] were more favorable than ever before, its present and future were seriously jeopardized by the large financial obligations contracted with foreign creditors.

The analysis then indicates that the country's foreign debt has increased too rapidly, that it has been contracted many times under burdensome conditions and that the resources from these loans have been assigned to social groups and sectors which did not at all guarantee the creation of a real process of national development, politically independent, socially liberating and economically balanced and harmonic.

In conclusion, the MIR points out that under the prevailing conditions, the foreign debt contracted does not justify the price that the Bolivian people and future generations are obliged to pay in order to finance the expansion of capitalism in our economy, the same capitalism which promotes social inequalities and the increase of sectorial and regional imbalances.

POSSIBLE THEMES OF COMING CARTER VISIT ANALYZED

PY080207Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Feb 78 p 4 PY

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Text] U.S. diplomacy is not concerned over the fact that President Carter will come to Brazil as early as March, immediately after President Geisel's return from the FRG, where Geisel will certainly reaffirm with Helmut Schmidt the terms of the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement, and will emphasize the intention of both parties to carry on their common goal of generating atomic energy within national [Brazilian] territory.

According to reports received in Brasilia, State Department sources consider that President Carter will not be embarrassed, troubled or inhibited against expressing his views opposing fundamental aspects of the Brazilian-FRG agreement. He will insist that our country, apart from signing new safeguards and nonproliferation treaties, wait a little more to benefit from (U.S.) technological advancement before installing its reprocessing plants. He will try to get us to join the U.S. decision to delay installation of its own reprocessing plants, since this would preclude the chance of Brazil rapidly and easily making atomic bombs. The reprocessing--at least for commercial purposes--of material released by reactors and projects for the installation of new reprocessing plants within U.S. territory have been suspended for 3 years since the latter part of the Ford administration.

President Carter would like to have us, even before initiating the construction of the reprocessing plants included in our agreement with the FRG, wait until U.S. scientists and experts are able to discover formulas which would yield a small quantity of plutonium, while taking advantage of the waste from enrichment plants (which would generate the energy which is indispensable to meet our needs). As is known, plutonium makes it possible to make nuclear devices in a rather simple and economical way. Should we accept the suggestion which the U.S. President will reiterate when he arrives in Brasilia, he would achieve the objective of his policy, which is designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Brazilian viewpoint, as ascertained this week from executive branch sources is, however, that we can no longer indulge in the luxury of wasting time, and it will be made clear to President Carter that we will not delay our program one single minute if we can avoid it. President Geisel may even start supporting his position by noting the fact that several countries such as France, Japan, China and the FRG itself, have not joined the 3-year moratorium. This is all the more reason why we, who lack energy for our future programs, cannot adhere to it. We will not be able to meet our goals of development and independence without immediately mobilizing all our available resources, including nuclear technology, irrespective of whether it may generate material which easily can be utilized to make bombs.

Although the latter point has not been stressed, it is the touchstone of our policy. As our government has time and again stated, we have no intention of making the bomb, but we cannot allow either a delay in our energy program or a trimming of our sovereignty. While promoting nonproliferation, the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries continue to build up their arsenals, making increasingly sophisticated weapons. To make their claims to nonbelligerence valid, they should destroy or eliminate their bombs. Yet while they are trying to force other countries to stop their nuclear programs, they have not destroyed their own bombs. The Brazilian Government is certainly trying to understand the U.S. position and does not believe that it may be motivated by biased commercial or economic interests. Because our diplomacy recognizes that President Carter's proposal is motivated by idealism, bilateral negotiations will continue. Common solutions will be achieved through dialog. The White House also shares this position: The United States does not expect Brazil to make a decision on this matter overnight, merely through talks between the Presidents Geisel and Carter. It knows that this is a complex problem, the solution to which takes time.

Meanwhile, the whole matter boils down to a question of equity: Why should we go against our own interests by accepting inevitable stagnation of our progress? Our history shows we do not want a world conflict. Yet we, not Washington or Moscow, must decide on our own future.

Brazilian Government sources have also noted that after all, a pressure policy can be justified in the communist world, where the law of the most powerful prevails and where democratic principles are not conceived the way we conceive them. The Soviet Union can impose on its satellites either policies, necessities or capricious views through telegrams or through more drastic methods. But as part of the Western bloc, integrated in a market economy and free competition system, how can we accept, at least without stating our opposition, tutelage on nuclear matters?

It is proper to reiterate, according to official sources, that we do not intend to make the bomb, much less drop it on our neighboring countries. Therefore, we will not let our development be jeopardized by foreign pressure or decisions, primarily considering that while not wanting the proliferation of nuclear weapons (in other countries), the United States, the Soviet Union and other nations continue to increase their capability of destroying each other and the planet.

We question the validity of the following argument, which President Carter will directly or indirectly convey to President Geisel: that is, since Brazil is part of the Western world, its nuclear security is in the hands of the United States, and that therefore we must not worry over our defense at the world level. In case the Soviets decided to drop four or five bombs on us--which is an absurd theory--it would be deterred by the U.S. arsenal. But we may ask: Why would the Soviet Union try to use either its conventional or nuclear weapons against Brazil? It has problems only with the United States, with which it is engaged in a dispute over world leadership, and if any chance Soviet devices were heading for Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo, similar devices would have hit Washington and New York long before, eliciting the natural and mandatory retaliation against Moscow and Leningrad.

In conclusion, the position Brazil is to maintain in the Carter-Geisel talks seems to be well-defined. Nor is there any doubt as to the position the U.S. President will continue to defend. Observers believe that it will be difficult to reach a solution, considering both the argument of those who try to avoid the proliferation of nuclear weapons (theirs), and the crystal clear defense of the principle of development and sovereignty (ours).

MAGALHAES PINTO 'MAY WITHDRAW' PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

PY082257Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 100 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Senator Magalhaes Pinto may withdraw his presidential candidacy. He will make this decision if the ARENA national convention, which is to approve General Figueiredo's nomination, adopts a process which would be unfavorable for Magalhaes' candidacy. Magalhaes may resign even just before the convention, but in this case, he intends to release an open letter to the nation to outline the reasons which forced him to make this decision.

BRIEFS

COMBAT CARS FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC POST--At 2000 today combat cars will be loaded on the ship [name indistinct], which will leave the port of Rio de Janeiro on 8 February carrying supplies for the oceanographic post on Trinidade Island. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 3 Feb 78 PY]

MILITARY, NAVAL ACTIVITY IN CONTESTED REGION

Official Denies Troop Movements

PY082337Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2002 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 8 Feb--Col Roberto Soto, under secretary of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, today denied rumors of Chilean troop movements near the Beagle Channel.

The high-ranking official also denied the existence of tension on the border with Argentina as a result of the military maneuvers being carried out by Chile.

Colonel Soto then said that the Chilean Government is maintaining its usual calm attitude in view of Argentine military practices. Since "we have no reason to change anything, there is no specific incident to force us to take any measures." He stated that Chilean-Argentine negotiations are dealing exclusively with the delimitation of maritime zones, since Chile considers that the problem concerning the British arbitral decision on the Beagle Channel has been overcome. He emphasized: "We cannot talk about something which has already been decided. We can talk about anything else, but not that." He said his personal opinion was that Argentina really wants to solve this problem as soon as possible, and that its president is interested in a quick and positive solution. He concluded by saying that "undoubtedly, when there is a difference of opinion such as this, or any other, both parties have to feel they are giving up something in order to reach an agreement."

LA TERCERA Condemns Argentine Maneuvers

PY081752Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1425 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 8 Feb--The newspaper LA TERCERA reported today that persons involved with the Argentine Government are trying to destroy the friendly relationship between Argentina and Chile.

In its editorial, LA TERCERA commented on the exercises which Argentine military forces are carrying out near the disputed Beagle area by describing them as "clearly intimidating maneuvers which are completely opposed to the calm attitude shown by Chilean authorities and by President Augusto Pinochet."

It added that "unfortunately, there are certain Argentine sectors which do not seem to understand that a war would only destroy the two countries and would bring pain and hatred which would be impossible to erase."

The editorial noted that "what one can be sure of is that Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla seems not to be involved in any of the maneuvers which are carried out by persons who are closely involved with his government and who, through armed intimidations, are trying to create a psychosis whose only objective is to destroy the friendly relationship which links Chile and Argentina."

LA TERCERA closed its editorial by stating: "If we are to seek the fraternal development of our people, let us do it through dialog and understanding. The use of intimidation is a condemnable and unacceptable argument."

POLAND ACCUSES CIA OF HAND IN DIPLOMAT'S DEFECTION

PA090304Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 8 Feb (EFE)--The evening newspaper EL MUNDO reports today that Poland has officially protested to the Venezuelan Government over the activities that the CIA has allegedly been carrying out in Latin America which, according to Poland, have resulted in two socialist diplomats seeking asylum in the U.S. Embassy in Caracas. However, the official document only confirms the fact that the Venezuelan Government has decided to grant safeconduct to counselor of the Polish Embassy in Caracas Ryszard Habdas and his family so that they may leave for the United States.

Habdas, his wife Maria and his 13-year-old daughter Eva sought refuge in the U.S. Embassy in this capital on Sunday. Apparently they were scheduled to return to Poland at the completion of his diplomatic term.

On 4 November of last year, when the commercial attache of the Soviet Embassy in Caracas, Yuriy Federovich Yurchenko, sought asylum, there were rumors here that the CIA had participated directly in the case. At that time, the refugee was accused of spying for the United States.

According to EL MUNDO, the Polish ambassador is apparently waiting for a report [informe] from his government on the activities of Ryszard Habdas. He has asked for a more intensive investigation before allowing the trip [to the United States]. However, there are unconfirmed reports according to which the Polish refugee left yesterday for the United States with his family. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy maintains strict silence on this matter.

PCV SECRETARY GENERAL ON MAS PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL

PA071643Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Feb 78 p d-8 PA

[Excerpt] Jesus Faria, secretary general of the Venezuelan Communist Party [PCV], yesterday admitted that he had received letters from writer Miguel Otero Silva and the national directorate of the Movement for Socialism (MAS). He said that they will be analyzed during the meeting of the PCV Central Committee, which opens tomorrow.

The communist leader indicated that his party's unitary line will not change because of the letters or differing positions on the issue of the presidential candidacy. He stressed that unity demands patience, endurance and revolutionary spirit.

Faria was interviewed yesterday regarding the letter sent by MAS Secretary General Pompeyo Marquez, telling him of Otero Silva's proposals on the unification of the various leftist parties for the December elections.

The PCV secretary general said: We have received the letters from Miguel Otero Silva dated 27 January and from the MAS directorate dated 1 February, which deal with the same subject. Since they arrived shortly before the meeting of the central committee on 4 February we have decided that the committee will analyze the letters.

[Question] Could the PCV position change in view of the proposal and letter from MAS?

[Answer] We must state that our unitary line cannot change because of those letters or because of differing positions on a single candidacy. We reiterate that unity, for certain things, demands patience, endurance and revolutionary spirit.

Radames Larrazabal, who was present during the interview with Faria, said that the PCV Central Committee plenum, which opens on Saturday and ends on Monday, will evaluate the unity process and will approve a number of policies on the organization of the elections.

MIR HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON LEFTIST UNITY

PA080436Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Feb 78 D-8 PA

[Text] We of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) do not feel that the possibilities for a unity of the left are dead, and we are asking all parties interested to continue their efforts to make such a possibility come true.

This declaration was by Deputy Romulo Henriquez, a member of MIR's national directorate, in commenting on a recent letter from the secretary general of the Movement to Socialism (MAS). The letter concerned proposals made on 17 January 1978 by Miguel Otero Silva to MAS, the People's Electoral Movement (MEP), MIR and the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), on forming a national command of socialist unity made up of presidents or secretaries general of the four parties, plus a qualified independent of the left. The proposal says the command should be presided over by Luis Beltran Prieto Figueroa, that Jose Vicente Rangel should be the presidential candidate and that he should be publicly declared and independent.

Henriquez mentioned the fact that during meetings held on 5 and 6 January, MIR's national directorate decided to continue looking for a single candidacy of the left. He said that the people expect a prompt decision. He added that others would have brought up the issue if MIR had not done so in January.

"For us, unity is the consensus of all parties and not just parties and candidates supporting one another," Henriquez pointed out.

"Anyone who wishes to form an alliance or make an important agreement should be willing to give up secondary aspirations in favor of one that is of main importance," Henriquez said.

"When several parties are trying to reach an understanding, we cannot expect to meet the aspirations of all the parties involved," Henriquez said. "That is why from the beginning we said we were willing to withdraw Americo Martin's candidacy, despite his popularity, and we asked all the parties to do the same, which we expect they will."

Henriquez said that MIR never proposed that the present candidates submit their resignation; not until unity has been agreed on. He added that he does not think it is convenient for any of the candidates to stop campaigning.

Are you referring specifically to Jose Vicente Rangel, the newsmen asked him?

"I am not referring to anyone in particular," Henriquez said, "but in view of the political situation, unity cannot be reached with all four candidates running. We also know that there are outstanding independents who can meet the requirements very well," Henriquez said.

he reiterated that MIR will continue making all possible efforts to have a single candidate of the left and that it expects each party to analyze the situation and to keep alive the possibility for an understanding.

"Whatever the result of the talks on a single candidate, we will continue to maintain the need for partial unitary agreements, because even if a single candidacy is our main aspiration, partial agreements should be promoted to strengthen socialist and popular unity," Henriquez asserted.

He said that so far progress has been made in partial agreements and that a good atmosphere exists among factions of parties of the left at the level of trade unions, newsmen, youth sectors and university professors.

"Evidently," he said, "the desire to have unity has made this progress possible." Henriquez added that full respect will be observed for the agreement which MAS, MEP, PCV and MIR have already signed about the spirit that should prevail in the interparty relations.

We will suggest to the parties to restrain from public debates regarding the problems we are dealing with because it stands in the way of unity.

When told that MEP had suggested that a candidate should be chosen from a list of 10 names, Henriquez said that MIR has not submitted any names, because first we must have unity. "We know that Rangel, Prieto, Mujica and Americo Martin are candidates with popular support," Henriquez indicated.

He mentioned the fact that in a survey conducted by them at the university and trade unions, it showed that support for MIR's policy was increasing. "However," he added, "we have said that we are willing to withdraw our candidate. But speaking about candidates, each party feels that its candidate is the right one."

Henriquez still feels that a candidate list can be drafted. He recalled that in the first meeting held, none of the parties were opposed to the idea. This should be considered something feasible, he indicated. "If the elections for councilmen are held separately, the drafting of these lists will be even more necessary," he said.

Finally, he said that they will insist on a single presidential candidate in next week's interparty meeting.

RURAL POLICE FORMED TO PROTECT FARMERS

PA081500 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] A rural police organization has been established, according to an announcement by Venezuelan Justice Minister Juan Martin Echeverria, who said it was being formed by members of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], the National Guard, cattlemen and farmers. The minister added that the rural police's objective is to offer more protection to cattlemen and farmers and that 100 radio transmitters, 6 helicopters, 90 four-wheel vehicles and arms will be purchased.

LEFTWING YOUTHS STAGE ANTI-SOMOZA DEMONSTRATION

PA0904444Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0117 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Feb (LATIN)--With cries of "death to Somoza and hail the Sandinist front," thousands of leftwing youths and members of the Mexican Communist Party tonight demanded here the breaking of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Nicaragua.

The demonstration, closely watched by hundreds of policemen, marched along the centrally located Paseo de la Reforma, but no incidents occurred.

The demonstrators chanted "down with Somoza's dictatorship" and "hail Nicaragua's proletarian struggle" while carrying red flags and the Nicaraguan flag.

Dozens of police vehicles, water cannons and policemen wearing helmets watched the demonstrators, ready to intervene at the slightest sign of disorder, but the demonstration was peaceful.

CUBAN RAPS PROFITS OF U.S. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

FL0418533Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1709 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The presence of North American multinational companies in Latin America subordinates the economic activities in the region to U.S. interests, Jose A. Benitez, Cuban delegate to the Continental Conference for Peace, has charged in Mexico. Benitez emphasized that these companies obtained profits of $3 billion in 1975 in Latin America, thereby contributing to the flight of capital from the region.

The Cuban delegate to the Continental Conference for Peace being held in Mexico stressed that should the profit rates of these multinational companies continue, they will obtain $60 billion in profits in the next decade. Lastly, Benitez raised the need to convert the Latin American Economic System--SELA--into an effective instrument for the establishment of a new international economic order.

BRIEFS

URANIUM RESERVES--Mexico City, 1 Feb (AFP)--The Mexican State of Chihuahua has 5,000 tons of uranium oxide reserves, according to the National Institute of Nuclear Energy, whose experts claim that Mexico has reserves of over 500,000 tons of the material. [Paris AFP Spanish 1929 GMT 1 Feb 78 PA]

OPPOSITION GROUPS PROTEST CARTER'S 1 FEB SPEECH ON CANAL

PA0902059Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The National Studies Center, the Democratic Independent Movement and the [illegible] of Independent Lawyers [MAI] have sent a protest cable to U.S. President James Carter because they feel that Carter's 1 February speech in favor of the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties mocks Panamanians and seeks to deceive Americans.

The cable sent by the three groups that oppose Gen Omar Torrijos' government objects to the part of Carter's speech in which, according to them, he describes the current Panamanian military government as a democracy and deliberately confuses political stability with what they call dictatorial immobility.

The protest cable sent to President Carter by the three opposition groups says that the Panamanian military regime has remained stable for 9 years through the use of force, exile and through oppressive laws that violate the human rights that the United States allegedly defends.

The protest cable sent by the National Studies Center, the Democratic Independent Movement and MAI blames General Torrijos' administration for Panama's current economic situation which, according to the three opposition groups, is one of the worst in the hemisphere. The cable adds that the unemployment rate is the highest in the country's history and that the prevailing regime is subjecting the Panamanian people to hunger and misery.

In conclusion, the cable sent to President Carter by the three opposition groups states that the world will never accept Carter's analytical concept of democracy--true and effective democracy with freedom and respect for human rights in the United States, and false democracy without freedom or respect for human rights in Latin America.

EL SALVADOR

ARRESTED GUERRILLAS REVEAL INTERNAL OPERATIONS

PA081707Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Two men and one woman who were arrested by the Salvadoran National Guard have given detailed information on their terrorist activities and the division within the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN). Jose Remigio Caceres Escobar, Miguel Angel Rojas Gonzalez and Carlota Hernandez Colocho were arrested last Tuesday at the Izalco sugar mill, 50 km east of San Salvador, during a strike. Caceres Escobar said he was a member of the Revolutionary People's Army (ERP) but left after the split caused the death of writer Roque Dalton Garcia, who used the name of Julio Dreyfus Marin. Dalton Garcia's execution split the ERP and gave birth to the FARN. Caceres Escobar gave an account of his participation in holdups and armed support for the strikes led or backed by the United Popular Action Front (FAPU). He added that his wife, Carlota Hernandez Colocho, who was also arrested, was entrusted with making the guerrilla centers livable. On his part, Rojas Gonzalez assumed responsibility for the kidnaping of businessman Victor Safie. Apparently he was the one who contacted Safie's son for the ransom. The National Guard said that Caceres Escobar directed the defense operations of the Izalco sugar mill, and when arrested, disclosed the existence of a FARN safe house. There, the police found a double-bottomed piece of furniture which contained 12-gauge shotguns and some of the subversive organization's literature.

GUATEMALA

COUNTRY TO MAINTAIN POSITION ON FULL RECOVERY OF BELIZE

PA090401Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Feb (AFP)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes said today that "Guatemala maintains its position of claiming all of the territory of Belize." "However," he added, "we are willing to seek formulas that appear to be viable and that Guatemalan public opinion may consider acceptable and honorable." Molina Orantes returned here tonight from Washington, where he met with Ted Rowlands, British under secretary for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The foreign minister pointed out that in his talks with the British diplomat they had not gone deeply into the problem and had only touched on matters regarding procedures. Molina Orantes said that negotiations will be resumed in March of this year on a date that has not yet been determined. "At the moment, no solution has been found," he stressed, refuting British reports to the effect that an agreement had been reached regarding the partition of Belize.

Guatemala maintains its position, he reiterated, and the partition of the territory is a hypothetical affair which, in any event, would have to be examined by the Guatemalan Congress in order to establish whether the formula is acceptable and whether it is in line with constitutional precepts.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0054 GMT on 9 February adds that "Molina Orantes stated that any Guatemalan renunciation of its claim over Belize in exchange for a portion of that territory could only be decided by the Guatemalan people in a referendum."]

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES UK L.A. BUREAU'S REMARKS

PA090425Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Feb (AFP)--The British are "trying to disparage Guatemala because of its just claims over the territory of Belize," Rolando Archila, a press spokesman of the Guatemalan Government, stated today. The official referred to a report by the Latin America Bureau of London, which said that "Guatemala is one of Latin America's most repressive countries." The report adds that "Guatemala's claim over Belize is a maneuver to distract the attention of the Guatemalan people from the repression and injustices" of their country. Archila said that "this type of information is prepared by unreliable entities for the clear purpose of disparaging Guatemala, now that the Belize case is being discussed." Archila emphasized that "it is surprising that these tendentious reports are originating in London."

"There is not the slightest doubt," Archila pointed out, "that the intent is to put Guatemala in a precarious position with respect to our country's just claim over Belize, which has been held by Great Britain for over a century."

"These reports coming from London," Archila concludes, "make the negotiations to seek a peaceful solution to the Belize problem more difficult."

LAUGERUD GARCIA DENIES SENDING TROOPS TO NICARAGUA

PA082238Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2102 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia said today that he has never planned to send troops to Nicaragua in support of President Anastasio Somoza. "Nicaragua's current political crisis must be solved exclusively by Nicaraguans," the president said, as he denied rumors circulating among the students of this capital to the effect that local troops would be sent to Nicaragua. According to Laugerud Garcia, his government is respectful of the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other states. "I am not like Fidel Castro, who sends soldiers to foment political subversion in other countries," he stressed.

Further on, the Guatemalan president admitted that leftwing guerrillas have been operating in the country, specifically the clandestine Poor People's Guerrilla Army, which recently held Roberto Herrera Ibarguen, former foreign minister and vice president of the Council of State, as a hostage for 1 month. "The army is fighting the guerrillas and will give them no respite," Laugerud Garcia remarked.

POLICE CLASH WITH GUERRILLAS NEAR LAS MAJADAS

PA081936Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1644 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Feb (LATIN)--Two men, presumably guerrillas, and a police officer were killed yesterday afternoon in a clash between the police and a subversive group in the hills near Las Majadas farm in the southwestern zone of this capital. According to police reports released this morning, two police officers on motorcycles were fired at from a taxi as they tried to stop it. One of the police officers was shot down, but the other managed to call for help. Several police cars responded and the criminals were encircled in the hills near Las Majadas farm, close to the country club grounds.

Police officers Salvador Gurtutia Palma and Manuel de Jesus Chinchilla were wounded by the five guerrillas as the police, supported by helicopters, closed in on the guerrillas. Santiago Castellanos Flores was the police officer who was killed. One of the guerrillas who was killed was identified from a university identification card found in his possession as Adrian A. Lopez Garcia. The other one has not been identified.

So far, the police have not said if the two dead men were members of the self-styled Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), which recently boldly kidnaped Roberto Herrera Ibarguen, Guatemala's former foreign minister, and whose release was conditioned to a number of demands and payment of a large ransom. An official police spokesman did say the subversives could have been guerrillas.

BRIEFS

NEW VICE MINISTER--Guatemala City, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Luis Aycinena Salazar today took office as the new Guatemalan foreign relations vice minister. He replaces Alfredo Obiola Gomez, who resigned. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1501 GMT 2 Feb 78 PA]

HONDURAS

ANTI-SOMOZA RALLY STAGED IN TEGUCIGALPA 7 FEB

PA081320Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0128 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Hundreds of workers, students, professionals and peasants staged a rally at the main park tonight in solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the Somoza dynasty, which has ruled that country for more than 40 years. "The defeat of the tyrannical Somoza dynasty is approaching. It is a difficult task because Somoza controls the political, military and economic forces. However, it is not impossible, the Nicaraguans are giving their blood in exchange for freedom," said Jorge Arturo Reina, president of the Committee of Solidarity With the Nicaraguan People and rector of the University of Honduras.

Reina had the crowd shouting "no" to his request that the Hondurans in general "oppose the fact that arms acquired through blood and sacrifice be used in the defense of the Somoza tyranny." The remark was an indirect reference to the charge made by the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR that exiled Cuban and Honduran mercenaries are fighting against the Sandinists in Nicaragua. Reina said that everybody in Honduras, including the most radical sectors, agree that the hour of liberation for Nicaragua is approaching, and they are expressing their solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people.

The Committee of Solidarity With the Nicarguan People announced that bulletins will be issued soon announcing where the people can make their contribution "no matter how modest it may be so that the Somoza dictatorship will fall soon." The people were also urged to join the ranks of the solidarity front which already includes teachers associations, labor federations, peasant organizations and students. An appeal was made to private enterprise "which is not entangled with Anastasio Somoza Debayle" to give its support to the Nicaraguan businessmen who have joined the strike to reject his "tyrannical actions." The rally proceeded without police intervention. A black and red flag of the Sandinist National Liberation Front was hoisted at the foot of the pedestal of Honduran hero Francisco Morazan, the founder of the Central American Union.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO CHILE, NICARAGUA--Tegucigalpa, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Omar Antonio Zelaya, former defense minister, and Alonso Flores Guerra, former government and justice minister, have been appointed Honduran ambassadors to Chile and Nicaragua respectively. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Feb 78 PA]

NICARAGUA

CHAMBER REJECTS MOTION TO SUMMON FULL CONGRESS

PA090005Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 8 Feb (LATIN)--The Chamber of Deputies today voted 36 to 26 against an opposition motion to summon the full congress to debate a possible request for the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza. The motion was introduced by Conservative (opposition) deputy Alberto Saborio, who, along with his colleague Eduardo Chamorro Coronel, alleged that President Somoza is "unable to rule the nation without the use of violence." The Liberal bloc deputies, among them Cornelio Hueck and Francisco Argenal Papi, argued that President Somoza had been elected constitutionally and must continue his term until 1 May 1981. They added that he is fully able to rule, "keep the peace and continue the nation's pace of progress."

PRESIDENT SOMOZA CLAIMS POLITICAL CRISIS OVER

PY090137Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 8 Feb 78 p 13 PY

[By a special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Managua--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle told JORNAL DO BRASIL in an interview held here yesterday that the Cuban Government has been helping the Sandinist National Liberation Front, which recently carried out several attacks in this country. He also said that the Costa Rican Government is unable to control the guerrillas who are operating from its territory, and stated that Costa Rica "should comply with the international agreements we have signed." Somoza denied rumors circulating here that U.S. mercenaries are training National Guard personnel. He said: "Sometimes there are karate experts who train National Guard personnel," adding that "two of these experts are now in the country." Regarding the murder of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of the newspaper LE PRENSA, a murder which unleashed the crisis the country is now going through, the president said that the investigations will continue. Somoza regarded Chamorro as a person "lacking political wisdom." Somoza believes that his government was able to overcome the crisis since he contended that last Sunday's municipal elections were held without incident "despite the turmoil existing in some cities, which caused abstentions in several urban electoral zones." He termed the elections "a success of the Nicaraguan democratic process." Furthermore, he regarded the normalization of commercial activities as evidence that the strike called by the business sector is coming to an end. Several organizations of businessmen and industrialists called strikes to demand greater freedom, an end to corruption and control by the National Guard, a broad amnesty, and an end to the unfair competition in which the public sector is engaged to the detriment of the private sector. Somoza merely said that these demands "will have to be studied to see if there are merits for changes." He added, smiling: "While in this country everybody asks what he wants, it is another thing to grant it."

Somoza asserted that there is complete freedom of the press in his country, despite the fact that several independent radio stations have not been allowed to carry newscasts in recent days. Regarding opposing radio stations that have been silenced, he said that these had experienced a power outage simply because they had not paid their electricity bills on time. He said that newscasts were banned because radio journalists were promoting agitation and added: "Since we have not yet overcome the consequences of the earthquake (of 1972), we are still under the Emergency Law. This law provides that under the threat of fines, we can demand that enterprises cooperate with us to avoid disorder. In view of this, radio journalists chose to suspend their newscasts and started to read them in churches." Regarding Chamorro's murder, President Somoza denied reports to the effect that the names of those who ordered the crime are still unknown. He said: "What is known thus far is that the perpetrator of the crime said that a doctor named Ramos hired him to kill Chamorro. We are investigating the biography of this man to determine what contacts he did have. This will take a long time."

[Question] "Could there be other persons involved besides Ramos?"

[Answer] "In his confession, the murderer said that Ramos told him that there were other persons involved."

Somoza added that he had known Chamorro for many years, although without maintaining personal relations with him. He regarded the journalist as a person with preconceived ideas, who was not happy with his Conservative role. He was not very specific about his government's prospects, but noted that he made many promises during the electoral campaign that he had been unable to keep, such as extending social security benefits to the rural sector, where 80 percent of Nicaraguans live--"but please do not ask me about this because I will not be able to reply. I am not prepared."

[Question] Mr President, since we are talking about the peasants, the opposition claims that hundreds of peasants have disappeared in the interior in recent years. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] They should bring each case to a court so that an investigation can be ordered.

[Question] Has any specific case ever been reported?

[Answer] "There was one case in which a woman claimed she had been raped by 18 members of a patrol detachment. Yes, cases like this have been reported."

He adopted virtually the same position regarding corruption. After denying any knowledge of specific cases of corruption in his government--despite the widespread belief in the country--General Somoza said that "anyone who reports a case must produce evidence of his charge, because I cannot go around investigating hearsay." Stating that in the future he only wants "to live in peace in Nicaragua," General Somoza discarded every possibility of continuing to head the government after 1981, when his term will end. Stating his opposition to the Somoza family's perpetuation in power (the Somozas have been in office for 43 years), and commenting on the chances of his son inheriting his political power, General Somoza said: "In politics, nothing can be inherited; everything must be won." He added that there are nearly 40 persons who are capable of becoming president in Nicaragua.

In view of the surprise shown by this reporter, since Nicaragua has a population of 2.5 million people, the general added: "Well, if you ask any Nicaraguan whether he thinks he is capable of becoming the president, he will answer yes; but I believe that there are only 40 persons who are capable of becoming president."

SOMOZA TELLS BRAZILIAN MAGAZINE HE WILL NOT RESIGN

PY082207Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2006 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 8 Feb--In an interview published here today by the magazine VEJA, Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle stated that his country is a true example of democratic liberties and social justice. Somoza told VEJA that he had never thought of resigning his post because this would mean showing disrespect for the constitution of his country. He added that he plans to leave the government in 1981, when he will end his constitutional term. Somoza, who regards himself both as a capitalist and socialist, told VEJA that his greatest asset is good relations with the Nicaraguan workers. Stating that his country is a true example of democratic liberties and social justice, the Nicaraguan president said: We favor human rights here.

Somoza gave assurances that Chamorro's murderers will be punished and denied having any responsibility in the murder of the director of the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA, a murder which unleashed the worst political crisis faced by his government. Violeta Chamorro, the widow of the murdered journalist, held the Nicaraguan president responsible for the death of her husband.

Somoza said: As a good Christian, she cannot and must not accuse me of that injustice, because she is well aware that I had nothing to do with Pedro Joaquin's death. The Nicaraguan president held capitalists and millionaires directly responsible for the strike, which paralyzed the country's industry and commerce until yesterday.

He said: It was my government which gave my little capitalist colleagues the social tranquility to build their fortunes. They are now turning their backs on me.

Somoza said: The capitalists will not change the country. The workers know that we are the only ones who can benefit them. He regarded himself as both capitalist and socialist. He said: "I am a devilish mixture that is called a liberal democrat by the Americans." He said that the charge that the Somoza family has been ruling Nicaragua for 40 years is unfair. He said: "To serve justice, we must make clear that we have not perpetuated ourselves in power. We were elected alternately."

PRIVATE SECTOR COMMUNIQUE SAYS STRIKE WILL CONTINUE

PA071524Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Nicaraguan private sector has issued a new communique. It states that the nationwide strike is the result of the people's repudiation of the injustices and abuses that they can no longer bear. This is why we are firmly maintaining our decision [to continue the strike], the communique adds. The private sector also called for the elimination of the national emergency decreed by Somoza. It demanded that human rights be respected and that the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro be solved. The private sector also demanded full freedom of the press and the establishment of political pluralism from the Nicaraguan Government.

TWO GUATEMALAN NEWSMEN ARRESTED, EXPELLED

PA090438Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 9 FEB 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Feb (AFP)--It was reported today that two Guatemalan newsmen, Axel Cocon and Bernal Sanchinelli, were expelled from Nicaragua where, they said, they had been captured and mistreated by the National Guard. Both men were covering the situation in this country for the Guatemalan newspaper IMPACTO when, according to them, they were arrested and brutally interrogated despite the fact that they had shown their credentials. This is the second incident involving Guatemalan newsmen that has taken place in this country since the recent attempted civil war. Previously, Cristobal Colon Sierra and Rodolfo Garcia of the television newscast Aqui el Mundo had also been detained by the National Guard while reporting on the situation.

POLICE CHIEF: NO MORE DISORDERS WILL BE TOLERATED

PA081921Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1758 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Managua Police Chief Col Alesio Gutierrez warned today that no further disturbances or calls to violence will be tolerated in this city. "We will apply the law to those newsmen who after reading the news in churches tour the city urging minors to commit acts of violence," the chief said. The newsmen, who went on strike after they were ordered to stop reporting on the general strike, guerrilla operations or demonstrations, have set up a "news bank" and write bulletins which are read in churches.

Col Gutierrez said that in the past few nights tires have been burned in streets and groups of demonstrators have set up barricades to obstruct police and private or public transportation. Tacks and nails have been strewn on the streets and military jeeps have been stoned. Even the car of an officer of the Nicaraguan National Guard was burned. Demonstrators have also tried to set fire to interurban buses. "So far," Colonel Gutierrez said, "we have been lenient considering the size of the disturbances and provocations, but this situation will not be permitted to continue one more day." He added that "agitators and their collaborators will be arrested and be dealt with as severely as the law permits."

At Ruben Dario University, the chief of police said Molotov cocktails are being manufactured, but the young men who are involved in this dangerous activity have been identified.

Last night, firemen had put out a fire at Macondo Nightclub, the straw roof of which was set on fire by an explosive device. In the meantime, Nicaraguan private business organizations have suspended their "permanent sessions" and have left their members at liberty to support the general strike started 3 weeks ago. In labor circles, it is said that "the strike continues," but many businesses have already reopened. The purpose of the general strike was to seek justice in the murder of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. However, it has become a movement seeking President Somoza's resignation. Groups of government employees have signed petitions supporting the strike and demanding more freedom, more effective justice and the progressive democratization of Nicaragua.

Leaders of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, one of the 16 private business organizations that promoted the general strike for 15 days, said the organization remains united.

"The last communique explained that the strike is only one way to attain the desired civic goals, and other alternatives are being examined. We said that ours was a strike by a few but it appears that employees will continue it now," a spokesman for the institute said.

Films shown last night in the city's theaters were attended by an average number of people. People were prevented from taking in packages to avoid incidents.

FSLN REPORTEDLY DEALS HEAVY LOSSES TO NATIONAL GUARD

PA081700Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1546 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua has claimed that it inflicted over 100 casualties on the National Guard in several simultaneous actions on Thursday and Friday of last week.

The guerrillas circulated a communique in this capital containing their version of the armed clashes that occurred in Granada, Rivas, La Virgen and Penas Blancas, on the border with Costa Rica.

The communique, which was published by the local press, also reports another confrontation on 3 February in El Rosario, a town in the northern department of Nueva Segovia, as well as an operation in Rio San Juan Department to the south, on the border with Costa Rica.

The Sandinists claim that in the fighting at El Rosario, they killed 40 Nicaraguan army soldiers and even downed a helicopter. (No official report on this confrontation has been released by the National Guard as yet).

According to the communique, the Sandinist "Southern Front"--with the Eduardo Contreras, Claudia Chamorro, Israel Levites and Oscar Turcios squads participating--attacked La Polvora Garrison in Granada. According to the communique, the FSLN killed at least 30 soldiers while the rebels suffered only one casualty--Roberto Montenegro Pastrana, who was wounded and captured. He is now in a hospital in Granada and is seeking a lawyer to defend him.

The Sandinist communique adds that the Arlen Siu, Ricardo Morales, Ramon Gonzalez and Manuel Aviles squads, which also belong to the Southern Front, attacked a military patrol in La Virgen. "The enemy lost 40 men," while the rebels lost only three and suffered one wounded.

The FSLN communique says that the operation at the Penas Blancas border post was carried out by the Carlos Aguero and Angela Morales squads, and it is not known how many losses the Nicaraguan National Guard suffered. The FSLN admits that Humberto Cruz Guevara, a former National Guard private, was killed in that skirmish.

With regard to the operations in the southern part of Rio San Juan Department, which were carried out by the Pedro Arauz Palacios and Ernesto Medrano squads, the rebels' communique says that "a report will be forthcoming."

In its official communiques--which do not mention the clashes at El Rosario or Rio San Juan--the Nicaraguan National Guard reports only 14 persons killed, including 7 soldiers, several guerrillas and innocent civilians who were caught in the fighting.

RADIO STRESSES CUBAN-JAMAICAN RELATIONS, COOPERATION

PA081256Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] Once again Cuba and Jamaica have shared views regarding numerous aspects of the international situation while at the same time reiterating the need to further strengthen and develop their bilateral relations.

A joint communique issued at the end of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's visit to Jamaica stresses that the two countries will actively work toward the success of the Sixth Summit of Nonalined Heads of State, scheduled for next year in Havana. The document also states that this event will be of great importance in the nonalined movement's history of struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism. It will also constitute a definite contribution to its cohesion and unity of action. Further on, Cuba and Jamaica expressed their concern over the increase in the number of undemocratic regimes and condemned all forms of fascism in the world. Regarding Africa, they stressed their satisfaction over the victories registered in Angola and Mozambique and expressed their solidarity with the anticolonial and anti-apartheid struggle being waged by the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia. They also deplored the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia.

The Cuban party expressed its recognition of Prime Minister Michael Manley's government for its repeated demands at numerous international forums and organizations on behalf of the elimination of the economic blockade and other aggressive measures against the Cuban revolution. This identity of views between Cuba and Jamaica is not accidental. It has been manifest ever since the Jamaican Government, along with three other English-speaking Caribbean countries--Guyana, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago--dealt a harsh blow to the policy of isolation of Cuba advocated by the United States when in 1972 they decided, in exercising their sovereignty, to establish diplomatic relations with our country. Since then, the ties between the two Caribbean states have fully developed and were strengthened with the visit Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, paid to Jamaica last October.

The cooperation developed and the joint actions undertaken by the two countries in various areas have contributed to strengthening the ties among the remaining Caribbean countries, which have come together in organizations such as the Latin American Economic System, the Caribbean Multinational Shipping Enterprise and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Under the agreements signed by the two countries in 1975, Cuban workers and technicians constructed in Spanishtown a modern high school with a capacity for 500 students, while young Jamaican builders have come to Cuba to train in modern techniques. Furthermore, Cuban internationalist construction workers built several houses in the community of [name indistinct] and erected eight small dams in Jamaican rural areas. Afterwards, they donated the equipment, valued at $1.5 million, to the Jamaican Government.

In accordance with what has been established, Cuban doctors have rendered their services in various areas of the neighboring Caribbean island while technicians from the two countries have been studying ways to fight the plague known as Sugar Cane Smut, the eradication of which is vital to the economic group of Latin American and Caribbean sugar-exporting countries.

This is another example of the solidarity aid that Cuba offers to all peoples who, in the exercise of their sovereignty, fight for their development and social progress.

U.S. EMBASSY DENIES SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AID TO SOMOZA

FL072105Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1505 GMT 7 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua has denied that North American military aid to the Anastasio Somoza regime has been suspended. In Honduras it was disclosed that a bulletin issued in Managua states that several U.S. citizens were participating in military activities in Nicaragua, and that they were doing so as individuals and not as members of the armed forces. On the other hand, persistent versions are circulating that English-speaking people are directing the Nicaraguan National Guard operations against the Sandinist guerrillas and the massive protests by the population. Counter-revolutionaries of Cuban origin and naturalized in the United States left Nicaragua with the permission of the government. They had taken refuge in the U.S. diplomatic mission, fearing the people's ire over the assassination of politician Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

FIDEL MEETS WITH CATALONIAN COMMUNIST LEADER

FL081314Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary, met yesterday with (Alfonso Comin), member of the Spanish Communist Party Executive Committee and United Socialist Party of Catalonia. At the meeting between Fidel and the Spanish leader and writer, who will be visiting Cuba for several days, they exchanged opinions on various international problems.

ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU MEETS WITH OAU DELEGATION

FL081245Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam has stated that his country strives for peace and is willing to support the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity [OAU] to settle the armed conflict with Somalia. He pointed out that peace in the Horn of Africa region can only be reestablished if the Somali troops are completely and unconditionally withdrawn from Ethiopian territory. The leader Haile Mariam made this declaration yesterday in Addis Ababa at the meeting with the OAU delegation visiting Ethiopia, headed by Nigerian Commissioner for External Affairs Joseph Garba. Nigeria is chairman of the OAU Committee to settle the Somali-Ethiopian Conflict.

POLITBURO MEMBER MEETS WITH BENIN PRESIDENT

FL081639Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1632 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and interior minister, has visited Cotonou and expressed solidarity with the people of Benin. The Cuban people, Sergio del Valle said, feel friendship, brotherhood and militant solidarity toward the courageous people of Benin in their consistent revolutionary struggle to build a new society free of oppression and exploitation.

Sergio del Valle was received by Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Revolutionary Party and of the People's Republic of Benin, and other leaders of that country. In their meeting, the Benin President and Sergio del Valle expressed satisfaction over their complete agreement on viewpoints concerning the problems they discussed, which were essentially concerned with international issues and particularly the situation in Africa.

ANAP PRESIDENT MEETS WITH VISITING SAO TOME MINISTER

FL081236Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1227 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], has received at the ANAP headquarters Henrique Pinto da Costa, agriculture and labor and social security minister of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Pinto da Costa and the delegation he heads are in Cuba in response to a special invitation of the revolutionary government.

Ramirez Cruz explained to the Sao Tome and Principe delegation certain aspects of the development of peasant struggles in Cuba until liberation and the current cooperatives process.

For his part, Henrique Pinto da Costa, Sao Tome and Principe minister of agriculture and labor and social security, discussed the big changes that have taken place in his country's agriculture after independence.

WFTU'S PASTORINO MEETS WITH MONTANE, PINEIRO

FL081223Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] At the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] President Enrique Pastorino has met with comrades Jesus Montane Oropesa and Manuel Pineiro Losada, both PCC Central Committee members. During the meeting Pastorino told of the preparations being made for the 11th World Labor Congress, which will be held from 16 to 23 April in Prague, Czechoslovakia. They also exchanged opinions on the revolutionary and trade union movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with WFTU support for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. Also at the meeting was Roberto Veiga, Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--secretary general and PCC Central Committee member. Accompanying the WFTU delegation was Jesus Escandel, CTC executive secretary.

ALMEIDA BOSQUE TOURS SANTIAGO DE CUBA PROJECTS

FL081703Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1433 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, Politburo member and Council of State vice president, has issued instructions to speed up the preparations to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the second and third fronts and the Protesta de Baragua centennial, following a tour of these historic sites. Among the sites visited by Almeida, accompanied by Central Committee member Rene de los Santos, was the La Lata region, the site at which in August 1958 Almeida established the General Command for the Mario Munuz Third Front. In his tour of this area Almeida spoke with people's government workers and people of the area who are renovating the command site, hospital and surrounding areas. The Politburo member briefed them on how to carry out the various projects to return them to their original condition.

During his tour of the second and third eastern front areas, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida met at the Le Lata Command with students from the Frank Pais Teachers School of Santiago de Cuba, who are replanting coffee trees in the area. Almeida was also interested in the status of the three construction projects on the Contramaestre River, at (Paso la Mina), Salto del Chivo, and (Brazo Malo) to facilitate access to this dense part of the Sierra Maestra. The Politburo member was briefed by Andres Hernandez, party first secretary of the Tercer Frente municipality, on the advances and many economic and social works being built in time for their inauguration on 1 March. The main event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the third front will take place at (Cruces de Los Sanos). In his tour of the second and third eastern fronts in Santiago de Cuba Province, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, Politburo member and Council of State vice president, visited the historic Mangos de Baraqua. Preparations have begun in Mangos de Baraqua for the national celebration honoring the Protesta de Baraqua centennial, the outstanding feat of revolutionary intransigence carried out by Antonio Maceo at this location on 15 March 1878. Politburo member Juan Almeida also visited the Segundo Frente municipality, where he toured the Pioneer Palace construction site. In Segundo Frente, Almeida also visited the mausoleum holding the remains of the rebel army combatants who fell during the liberation war.

In his tour of the various works in final phase of construction in Segundo Frente, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida was briefed on the works and the date when they are to be completed. Almeida visited, accompanied by Manuel Rojas, deputy secretary of the party in the Segundo Frente municipality, the site in Mayari Arriba where the airstrip used by the rebel army airforce is being repaved to allow several types of planes to land. At each place visited, Politburo member Juan Almeida noted the enthusiasm of the workers and masses in carrying out the tasks of beautification and renovation of the historical sites. The several sites will be inaugurated in honor of the patriotic events--the 20th anniversary of the opening of the second and third eastern fronts and the Protesta de Baragua centennial.

LEZCANO SPEAKS AT CDR NATIONAL MEETING

FL081446Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Jorge Lezcano, member of the PCC Central Committee and national coordinator at the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR, gave the main address at the national meeting held in Havana City Province to study the work done in the area of vigilance last year. In his speech, he congratulated the work achievements by vigilant cadres in the name of the CDR national executive, and he insisted on the need to strengthen the masses' consciousness regarding the importance of the Revolutionary People's Guard and vigilance. The CDR national coordinator called on all to study in depth the zones [of vigilance] so as to make proper use of the guard. He stated that although they have made advances in this area, we should continue with our attempt to raise the level of vigilance and make a special effort in the operation centers. Upon referring to the people's attitudes on vigilance Lezcano stated: We, the people, must protect the property of the state and protect the population from theft because stealing from the people is stealing from the state. Finally he talked about the need to create a collective consciousness against delinquency and to continue strengthening relations with the Interior Ministry and especially with the National Revolutionary Police.

BARBADOS

FORDE ON MARINE BOUNDARIES BILL, TALKS WITH BRAZIL

FL081155Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Feb 78 p 5 FL

[Text] Barbados will be resuming negotiations with Brazil early this month about an agreement to permit local vessels to continue to shrimp off the coast of the Latin America country.

Attorney-General and Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Henry Forde, said in the House of Assembly on Tuesday that the agreement which this island had with Brazil for the right to shrimp with the use of up to 21 boats, expired on December 31 last year. Discussions have been going on with Brazil on extending the agreement.

Mr. Forde said that negotiations were to have resumed on Monday, but notice came too late for officials to be in Brazil at that time.

He added that a new date has been fixed for between February 6 and 13.

Mr. Forde said that the Brazilian Government had also invited this country to explore the possibility of a joint venture with Trinidad and Tobago in the shrimping industry. A three-way agreement, he added, has not been ruled out.

The Attorney-General was speaking during debate on a bill to provide for the establishment of marine boundaries and jurisdiction.

Opposition member, for St. Michael South, Mr. Erskine Sandiford, had queried whether the minister would not have made some reference to Barbados' interest in shrimping off the coastline of Guyana and Brazil when dealing with the patrimonial sea and the relationship which should exist as far as protection may be concerned.

"It would help us considerably if we were told of the shrimping project which was to have developed between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago," Mr. Sandiford added.

Mr. Sandiford noted that Barbados was an island with a geological disadvantage for there was a shortage of land space and plenty of water around. He added that the development of the country must inevitably rely not only on exploitation of meagre land resources, but must largely depend on the water and what is in the water.

The bill provides, among other things, for the establishment of a marine zone of 200 miles, contiguous to the territorial waters of Barbados, measured from the baselines of the territorial waters.

Mr. Forde said that in the Caribbean and adjoining areas of the Atlantic, an overview of the state of maritime legislation of states shows that countries like the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayenne, Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Surinam and Venezuela either have or have declared an intention to introduce in the immediate future a 200 mile fishing or economic zone.

"Barbados' policy decision to promulgate a 200 mile marine zone has been taken after a careful analysis of our national interests, including our social, economic and political interests, and of the prevailing international law developments at the Law of the Sea Conference consistent with the new international economic order," Mr. Forde said. He added that in any case where the distance between the coast of Barbados and another country, such as St. Vincent or St. Lucia or Trinidad and Tobago, is less than 400 miles, then Barbados will initiate steps to start negotiations for agreement as to the fixing of the boundary line of the economic zone adjacent to that other country.

Opposition member, Mr. Sandiford, said that it was one thing to pass legislation relating to the law of the sea and an economic zone extending 200 miles from the baseline of territorial waters and it is another to police areas.

"We want to hear about approaches which small countries will use in policing this particular issue," he said.

In answer, Mr. Forde said that government brought about a white paper setting out of its plans for the defence force and its duties.

JAMAICA

MANLEY SAYS MIDDLE CLASSES CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE

FL061925Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 78 p 7 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley told members of the Jamaica Computer Society on Tuesday night that the middle classes are caught in the "cross-fire" of a tremendous class war between the deprived masses and small oligarchy.

He was very concerned, he said, about how to get the middle classes out of the line of this cross-fire, because they had become the innocent victims of the class war between the masses which felt itself deprived and the small oligarchy which controlled economic power.

Speaking on the country's need to retain its professionally-skilled people, Mr. Manley said that the present struggle was an inherent development growing out of the injustices which had developed in the society. Pointing to the earlier stages of the struggle through the trade union movement, he emphasized that "sooner or later the struggle had to move out of the purely trade union sphere and into the broader society." Fundamentally, the struggle was to determine who is going to control the economy.

Injustice

Mr. Manley said: One of the tragedies of the Jamaican situation is that we have lived with injustice for so long that we have tended to lose the distinction between those who prospered by exploitation within the old colonial system, and those who have prospered in modern Jamaica by the sweat and tears of parents who sacrificed and through the dedication and discipline of children who persevered to extract the maximum from opportunity.

"Those who are the have nots of today will never become the 'haves' of tomorrow without the service of the skilled. Equally, the skilled will not be able to enjoy the fruits of their labour in personal security and with a clear conscience if they do not consciously place their skills at the service of the broader humanity from which we all spring, and to whom we owe the loyalty of our common brotherhood.

"If you dismiss this as idealism, you will miss the point as surely as will the masses miss their opportunity if they do not develop the capacity to understand, value and appreciate the role of the expert.

"Patriotism is the only cement that can bind together the disparate elements of human society, and patriotism is a two-way street based on the desire of a man to serve and the right of a man to be appreciated. In visiting you this afternoon, I am hoping in my small way to express my recognition of your contribution to Jamaica and to express our appreciation of what you are, what you contribute and, hopefully, the role that you will play in building the Jamaica of the future."

In response to questions, Mr. Manley said that the middle classes lacked confidence, because it did not know its own strength. In fact, its strength lay in its skills, "and the question is how do you get the middle class to assess its own strength and recognize that strength, and take its place in the society, or whether it just gives in and folds up its hands and withdraws."

Cross-Fire

Mr. Manley said his concern was how to get the middle class out of the cross-fire between the masses and the oligarchy.

The prime minister made these remarks and he discussed what he termed "a profound and potentially disabling misunderstanding" revolving around the question: What is the position of people with high professional skills in the democratic socialist process? He went on: "I am choosing my words very carefully when I say that the misunderstanding is both profound and potentially disabling. It is profound because it goes to the very foundation of relations between various groups in the society. Equally, it is potentially disabling because our capacity to create a society that is both viable and just depends on how we resolve the question.

"Now, let us examine the questions: The fact is that Jamaican society has been unjust throughout its entire history. There can be no debate about that, so I won't bore you with an analysis of the reasons for and the nature of that injustice. When we came to power in 1972, we set out to correct that injustice. Therefore, it was obvious that we had to focus our concern principally on the deprived and the dispossessed. Unfortunately, this focus led to the impression that those of us who argued for change and who began to implement change had no further use for those who possessed the commanding skills that have always been in short supply.

"This impression, of course, is a fallacy, and it is so for the very simple reason that a critical objective of socialism is the creation of abundance so that the basic human needs of all our people can be satisfied. Furthermore, it is impossible to create this abundance without the application of science, technology and specialized skills to the production process. So, Mr. Chairman, we are commended by both experience and commonsense to recognizing the legitimate role of the highly skilled professional in the socialist process.

"But after we have recognized the critical role of the highly skilled we still have to examine the options for his participation. The first option open to the professional is to demand that he be free to "write his own ticket" and the salary that we could obtain in a Western industrialized country. He could say to the society that if you do not allow me to write my own ticket I will leave.

Dilemma

Now, the dilemma that the society faces is that, on the one hand, it badly needs his skills and, on the other, it cannot afford to have him write his own ticket, on the basis of western standards.

"What, therefore, is the answer? We must first of all recognize that we must pursue relentlessly the creation of the viable and just society which requires skills and which must solve the fundamental problems. Secondly, we must recognize that the legitimate claims of those who possess scarce and needed skills must be treated in a reasonable way. While we recognize their legitimate claims, we ask them to share in our concern for the deprived and the dispossessed and to lay the material base to improve the life chances of all our people," he concluded. Mr. Manley was introduced by the society's president, Mr. Pat Terrelonge, and the occasion was the monthly meeting of the society in the British American Building Auditorium, New Kingston.

WARNING AGAINST SUPPORT OF CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA

FL081500Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Feb 78 p 12 FL

[Your World and Mine column by John Hearne: "Cuba's African Connection"]

[Text] Fidel Castro may have his own strategic reasons for sending Cuban soldiers into the Horn of Africa, but I would beg this government not to allow its near adoration of Castro to lead our country into a position of support for Cuba that might embarrass us or that might lose us the aid and foreign investment we so desperately need.

Our support for Cuba over its intervention in the Angolan civil war could and can be justified. Even the CIA field officer in charge of that agency's activities in Angola admitted publicly after his resignation that the MPLA was the most legitimate and most popular movement in the struggle for liberation from Portuguese colonialism. At the time that the South Africans entered the war on the side of the other movement, UNITAS, the MPLA was already in control of most provinces and seemed to have a genuine majority support among the Angolan people. Ironically enough, the MPLA was also making overtures to America as its victory in the civil war drew nearer.

America's failure to recognise what were its own best interests gave the Russians the chance they had been looking for. They backed a Cuban intervention that could be made to look good in world councils, and which was, in fact, an intervention on behalf of those whose cause had the most justice.

But the Cuban involvement on the other side of Africa in the wars between Ethiopia and the Somali and Eritrean rebels presents a very different picture.

Ethiopia was and remains an imperial power--even if it has got rid of its emperor and his imperial house. The emperor's successors appear to be a peculiarly unpleasant and murderous band determined to maintain that empire over peoples who differ from them in speech, race and heritage. There can be no justification for the Russian-financed Cuban interference in these struggles. We should be very careful that we do not give aid and comfort to Cuba, either by word or deed, in this squalid venture.

The Russians are now committed to an Ethiopian victory that will give them a client state and naval bases from which they can dominate the passages from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. It is a plain and cynical piece of power politics, and the use of Cuban auxiliaries is a plain and cynical calling in of some of the enormous debt that Cuba owes Russia.

As the two rebellions--in Eritrea and by the Somalis in the Ogaden Desert--begin to get more material aid from the Western nations and Saudi Arabia, the Cuban contribution of manpower will have to increase.

The Russians are making no pretence this time that Cuban intervention is an exercise of Cuban sovereignty, as was argued in the case of Angola. Control of the Somalian coast, and of the Eritrean port of Massawa, aretoo vital to Russia's plans for dominance in the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Ocean and East Africa. Diplomatic hypocrisies have been abandoned as the Russians airlift huge quantities of weaponry to the beleaguered Ethiopians for them and their increasing number of conscripted Cuban allies to use.

What is developing in Africa's north-east corner is likely to develop into something very long and very bloody.

The Russians are too heavily committed, now, to do anything but fight to the last Ethiopian and the last Cuban.

It is impossible now for the Western powers to stand by. They will have to begin to supply the Eritreans, the Somali subjects of Ethiopia and the Somalian Republic itself with a weight of planes, guns and tanks that begins to match the weaponry being poured into Ethiopia by the Russians.

Neither the Somalian supported rebels in the Ogaden Desert nor the Eritrean rebels in the north dare settle for anything less than absolute victories over the Ethiopians. They must aim for the establishment of frontiers that the Ethiopians will find too expensive to breach if they ever try to recapture their lost imperial territories.

The Ethiopians cannot afford to lose. Defeat would mean the reduction of Ethiopia to a landlocked and insignificant country, utterly dependent on the goodwill and favour of the very two peoples it is now fighting.

And into this appalling mess--which can only grow worse--the Cubans have been sucked because of the ambitions of their Russian benefactors.

It is obvious that the Russians do not intend to supply the Ethiopians with more than a few military and technical experts. They are not going to make the terrible blunder that America made in Vietnam and commit large armies of their own troops.

Somewhere along the grim road that the Cubans have had to take at the Russians' command, Cuba is going to lose one too many of their young men.

It may not be a good thing to be a Fidel Castro on the day that the Cubans ask why that young man has died, far away in a foreign country, fighting in a war he did not begin, for the benefit of others who value him only for his ability to carry a gun.

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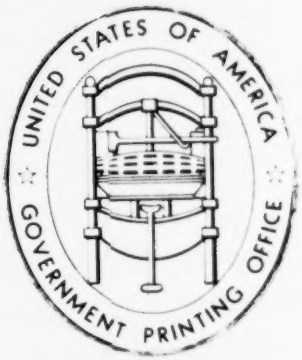

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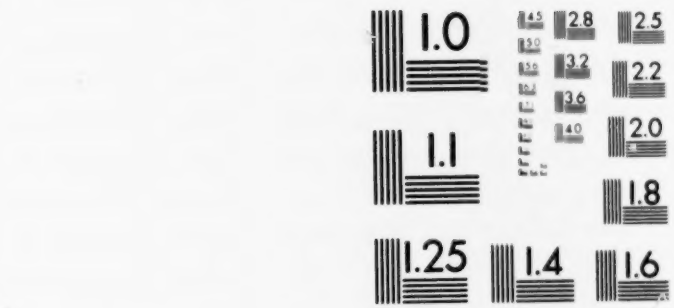

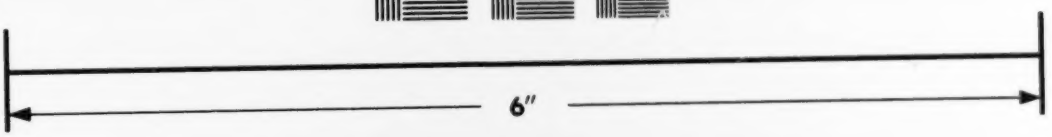

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